

Ameris Bancorp  
Form 3  
February 18, 2016

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

|   |         |                                      |  |  |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * |         | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol                                |  |
| Â Bassett Lawton E III                    |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]  |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                           | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
|   |         | 02/16/2016                           |  |  |
| P. O. BOX 3668                            |         |                                      | (Check all applicable)   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
|   |         |                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |
|   |         |                                      | (give title below) (specify below)   |  |
|   |         |                                      | EVP & Chief Banking Officer  |  |
| MOULTRIE,Â GAÂ 31776                      |         |                                      |  |  |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                |  |  |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 35,235  | D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 168   | I  | By Spouse   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

## Edgar Filing: Ameris Bancorp - Form 3

|                       | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) |   |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Employee Stock Option | 05/16/2011       | 05/16/2016      | Common Stock | 800                        | \$ 20.18 | D                                     | Â |
| Employee Stock Option | 06/13/2012       | 06/13/2017      | Common Stock | 5,139                      | \$ 22.23 | D                                     | Â |
| Employee Stock Option | 02/19/2013       | 02/19/2018      | Common Stock | 3,083                      | \$ 14.76 | D                                     | Â |
| Employee Stock Option | 01/20/2014       | 01/20/2019      | Common Stock | 5,139                      | \$ 7.46  | D                                     | Â |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                               | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| Bassett Lawton E III<br>P. O. BOX 3668<br>MOULTRIE, GA 31776 | Â             | Â         | Â EVP & Chief Banking Officer | Â     |

## Signatures

Lawton E. Bassett, III by Angela Redd as  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/18/2016

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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